Mississippi

Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006

- 10% — Human Capital Development
- 8% — Library Service Expansion and Access
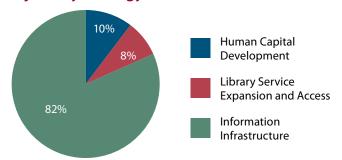- 82% — Information Infrastructure

This fact sheet provides information about the State Library Administrative Agency, LSTA Grants to States programs by category, expenditures by fiscal year (2003–2006), interview highlights with the chief officer, and the program goals for 2008–2012.

State Library Administrative Agency Information

Agency name	Mississippi Library Commission
Agency governance	An independent agency that has a board appointed by the Governor
Population served in 2006	2,896,713
FY 2006 total expenditures	$13,302,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	$7,133,057
Chief Officer	Sharman Smith, Executive Director, State Library Commission
Web site	www.mlc.lib.ms.us

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Sharman Smith

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:
"Skills development! We are a rural state and a huge number of directors will be retiring soon; many public libraries are run by paraprofessionals. So, we're growing our own. There's an MLS degree granting institution (University of Southern Mississippi) as well. We require that system directors have an MLS. Training paraprofessionals at the branch level is important to assure access to quality, consistent library service."

Delivery of Library Services:
"The regionals here are administrative units; they aren't cooperatives. They're paid for with local funds and are independent of the State Library. They're like county libraries although some are multicounty. Mississippi has the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), administrative systems, and 240 public libraries, so MLC works directly with systems and public libraries. It eliminates the expense of

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Mississippi	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	$1,638,841	$1,777,168	$1,830,121	$1,866,927	$7,133,057
Number of projects reported	75	79	62	51	267
Largest project amount	$249,696	$298,328	$285,925	$275,133	
Median project amount	$9,943	$5,000	$11,027	$11,250	

intermediate units and makes for closer relationships, but it also makes us responsible for addressing their needs."

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:
1. Staffing is huge.
2. Staying current with technology is also big: keeping libraries relevant. A director said to me, "We used to buy six book titles, but now we have to buy six versions of a single title."
3. Finding the money for traditional services plus the new services: money just isn't keeping up. We have been and will continue to focus on these three challenges. We use some LSTA funds for specific subgrants, but we also use LSTA to move the state forward as well.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- **Technology:** Enhance use of technology in Mississippi libraries to improve services and facilitate access to materials and information resources for Mississippians by supporting and providing statewide networking, technology access, subgrants, technology consulting/ support, and initiatives to libraries.
- **Library Development:** Enhance library services through well-managed and well-operated libraries to provide quality library service to all Mississippians by providing subgrants, consulting/support, initiatives, resource assistance, and public library accreditation implementation.
- **Interlibrary Cooperation:** Enhance libraries' ability to meet increasing citizen demands for information and library services through resource sharing and partnerships so Mississippi libraries may address the needs of citizens.
- **Special Populations:** Meet the library service needs of all Mississippians regardless of personal circumstance so that all can achieve their goals as lifelong learners through subgrants, direct and indirect outreach programs and initiatives, association with multifaceted organizations, and direct service initiatives.
- **Skills Development:** Strengthen library resources,

services, and tools and systems; expand services for learning and access; grow electronic networks and linkages between libraries; develop partnerships; target services to diverse individuals and those underserved or having difficulty using a library by enhancing the ability of libraries to more effectively utilize resources to deliver services so all Mississippians have equitable access to quality library service.

Exemplary Project:
Jackson-George Regional Library

Project title	Libraries Rebuilding Lives: Bringing the Coast Back
Library	Jackson-George Regional Library
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	$12,000
Total Cost FY06	$12,000
Program Category	Information Infrastructure

While still recovering from Hurricane Katrina itself, the Jackson-George Regional Library System noted heightened community needs and sought to provide for those needs. This project increased the library's collection of home improvement and repair materials needed for the ongoing efforts to rebuild from the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. A total of 742 books were purchased; subjects included home building, carpentry, gardening/landscaping, plumbing, masonry, and more.